D 3718

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTR
No. D 3718.
Date 7 1 6 1 32

[illegible] Of Sea Terrorists Revealed By Inquest On Pirate Victims

A sensational chapter was added yesterday to the annals of piracy in Chinese waters in the Nantao District Court.

Inquest into circumstances surrounding the slaughter of one foreign and two Chinese customs officials as well as one other Chinese before the machine guns of pirates last Thursday off Woosung brought to light the existence of a huge band of sea terrorists, whose depredations outrank those of any other known bandit organization in recent local history.

Four Chinese, who had been held prisoner aboard the pirate sloop, testified to a record of piracy and murder on the high seas, climaxing in open warfare with customs officials. Their account put to shame the atrocities of local land bandits of the last decade. Reports of the inquest were given this paper by a court attendant.

Four Witnesses Talk

The four witnesses were brought to Shanghai on Sunday aboard the customs cruiser, Lu Hsing, which had spent two days combing the waters and surrounding land areas of Woosung in attempts to trace the pirate junk. The quartet stated that they had been held aboard the junk against their will. They related the following story:

About a week ago, the four together with about 10 others had been anchored off Sukiang, intending to come into Shanghai with the high tide. A huge five masted sailing ship under full canvas suddenly bore down upon them. The appearance of the vessel corresponded with the description of a well-known pirate ship that for months has been preying on small craft in the Sukiang region; so without asking questions the smaller junk weighed anchor and gave the wind every inch of sail in its efforts to make land before being overtaken by the pirate ship.

Opened Fire

The five masted vessel bore down on the junk, and when at a distance of [illegible] yards it opened fire with [illegible] in the forward deck. One of the shots splintered the main mast of the junk, and in the [illegible] craft was [illegible] the [illegible] over.

[illegible] they as the [illegible] the junk, [illegible] [illegible]

Immediately after boarding the junk, the leader of the pirates called for the two men in charge of the junk; and when they responded both were shot dead. Their bodies were hurled over the side into the sea.

Ship Rifled

The bandits then took everything of value, including $2,000 cash and deposited it aboard their ship. The pirate chief then ordered the junk to return to Sukiang for $6,000 ransom upon receipt of which he would return the captured junk and crew to the owners. Thirty heavily armed pirates were sent to accompany the junk and six members of the crew back to Sukiang. The pirate ship then pulled away, and nothing has been seen or heard of it since.

A hasty trip was made to Sukiang, and without difficulty the ransom money was secured. The trip was begun back to the pirate ship. En route two fishing junks were held up. Five men aboard the junks were killed, and two wounded were thrown over the side into the sea.

One small fishing boat was sent back for ransom money with eight armed pirates aboard it.

Junk Overtaken

On Thursday morning, at daybreak the junk sighted the pirate launch from the customs cruiser Chiuentiao. All sail was hoisted and the junk headed out to sea; but it was overtaken after a short run by the customs power boat. Manifest papers were signalled for, and the original members of the junk crew were ordered to board a sampan and present the papers, which they did.

Although the papers were [illegible] Captain [illegible] Kowtrie, Danish became suspicious of the junk, and he ordered two of his men to board the [illegible] sampan stopped [illegible] the junk [illegible] junk, [illegible] of the [illegible] the [illegible] boarding [illegible] with [illegible] shot through his head. The other five leaped from their sampan into the water, and [illegible] behind the [illegible] craft from the junk fire.

[illegible]

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL
C. & S. B. REGIST
No. D 3718.
Date 7 6 32.

Pirates Led By Men In Uniform Used Automatic Rifles In Yangtze Fight

Another Of Customs Crew Dies; Picket Boat's Battle Scarred Appearance; First Officer's Miraculous Escape; Eye-Witness Accounts

ENCOUNTER TOOK PLACE IN SHALLOW WATER; OFFICERS USE LEWIS GUN

The death roll in the battle between the Customs crew and pirates in the Yangtze Kiang estuary on Thursday morning, has now amounted to four on the side of the officials. Yesterday, one of the Chinese, who was wounded on the Customs picket boat, or pinnace, died at the Lester Hospital from wounds. An examination yesterday showed that the picket boat was riddled above the water line with bullets, and authentic reports from eye witnesses show that the pirates were directed by men in uniform and that they used Thompson automatic rifles. The pinnace men replied with their arms and a Lewis gun, and it is believed that the losses among the pirates may be heavy, as several of them were in a sampan and caught between two fires. The late Mr. J. Kondrup, third officer, was hit by two bullets in the stomach and Mr. Morpeth, the first officer, had his holster ripped, also his sleeve, by bullets. But he was unscathed. The search for the junk has proved fruitless.

Hanging from the davits as mute testimony of the dastardly attack that was made upon its crew early on Thursday morning, the picket boat of the Customs cruiser Chuentiao is in need of a few minor repairs. Bullet holes mark its starboard side and inside the little craft the wood is splinted badly.

The Chuentiao is back in Shanghai harbour following an unsuccessful search for the junk on which the Chinese pirates hid and opened fire on the Customs officers on Thursday. Life on the smart little cruiser is not the same as before. J. Kondrup the third officer, who died from a stomach wound during the early morning battle, was a popular official, and his presence is being sadly missed by the many foreigners and Chinese that make up the complement of the cruiser.

Eye-witness stories of the battle with the pirates present many fresh points, chief of which is that the pirates used Thompson automatic rifles, while the picket boat crew fought back with a Lewis gun. Pirates wearing uniforms and stripes on their arms, [illegible] aboard the junk, which was a big three masted, sea-going vessel. Evidently these men were either disguised soldiers or regular band-[illegible]

Bullet Holes On Belt

Besides the pinnace, with its bullet scarred side, there are other [illegible] of the battle aboard the cruiser. For instance there is an officer's belt with leather wallet attached. One bullet has pierced the wallet and another smashed through the belt. Both these [illegible] mark the spots where the [illegible] was hit and fell over [illegible] where he died to death.

There is another belt with revolver holster attached, so on view as a souvenir of the battle. This belt and holster belongs to the first officer, J. B. Morpeth, who went through the action unscathed. Yet his holster had been torn by a bullet and his coat sleeve was also ripped by the passage of a bullet. He was [illegible]

Authentic reports of the pirate battle reveal that the Chuentiao was cruising 80 miles off Woosung, and along the Yangtze Kiang estuary, when a big junk was picked out for examination. As the junk was moving along in shallow water, the Chuentiao lowered its pinnace, the small boat being manned by the first and third officers, a foreign boat examiner, a Chinese third class tide waiter and ten armed Chinese.

Sampan Approaches

As the pinnace approached the junk, a sampan with six men aboard left the old fashioned craft and came towards the launch. The men aboard the sampan carried the junk's papers and these appeared to be in order. However, the mysterious appearance of the junk caused the Customs officers to decide to board and examine her.

With the sampan in tow, the pinnace moved alongside the junk and without any warning the pirates opened fire. They employed automatic rifles and sprayed the little boat with bullets. The pirates had the advantage of firing from above while the men aboard the pinnace had to fire upwards at assailants, who for the most part, were under cover. Six men went down on the pinnace, while the sampan, caught between two fires, suffered casualties.

The heavy wooden sides of the junk absorbed the bullets from the Lewis gun, but the pinnace was shot about and a score of wounds dotted her side. The boat examiner had his cap shot off. The dastardly and sudden attack completely disorganised the Customs boat, which was forced to move off. The junk also moved away and was soon lost to sight in the fog.

Pinnace In Shambles

The pinnace had left the Chuentiao at 9.25 a.m. with a heavy crew aboard; she returned two hours later and resembled a shambles. Three dead and three wounded lay about the decks. The scene that presented itself was a shock to the remaining officers on the Chuentiao. The commander, [illegible] Barwick, the second [illegible] three engineer officers had remained on board, and although they had seen the pinnace and the junk in the distance no sound of the firing had reached them. However, they immediately made arrangements for the comfort of the wounded men, and after the bodies of the dead and the injured had been transferred to another Customs vessel, they commenced their search for the junk. This search proved unavailing, and although the officers obtained further information regarding the junk, they were forced through fog, to commence the return journey to Shanghai on Thursday afternoon.

A number of bullets have been extracted from the wooden sides of the pinnace, and they appear to be a little larger than revolver bullets.

Death Of Chinese

One of the three Chinese Customs men to be shot down in the engagement, died of wounds in the Lester Hospital yesterday at 2.50 p.m. He had been badly injured and little hope was held out for him when he was brought ashore on Thursday night. His name was Miao Fu, and although operated upon, he failed to survive. The other wounded men—both Chinese—are progressing. One was hit in the stomach and, following an operation, is doing well, while the other man is not in a serious condition, having been hit in the leg.

Inquest Yesterday

Yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock, inquests were held on the body of J. Kondrup, the Danish officer to be shot by the pirates, and also on the bodies of the two Chinese who were shot outright on the pinnace.

Funeral To-day

To-day the funeral will be held of J. Kondrup. The interment will take place at 4.30 p.m. [illegible] at the Hungjao Road Cemetery.

Date June 4, 1932.

(C. & S.B.) Office Notes

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL P
C. & S. B. REGISTR
No. D 3718.
Date 6 / 6 / 32.

D. C. (Crime)

I beg to attach translations of a bloodstained log book and documents handed to me at 11 a.m., June 3, by Mr. Skuse, Chief Tidesurveyor, Chinese Maritime Customs, Shanghai, for purposes of examination in connection with the murder of Customs Cruiser officers and crew by an armed junk at Woosung on June 2, 1932. The book was found in the possession of a foreign officer who was shot and killed whilst examining same.

Copies of translations of the documents and the originals have been forwarded to Mr. Skuse and the information contained therein has enabled the Customs Authorities to identify the junk responsible for the outrage and necessary action is being taken by them.

It is evident that the junk was carrying contraband cargo when held up for examination by the Customs Authorities.

A bullet found in the Customs boat was also handed in for examination and is being dealt with by the Arms Identification Section.

C.P.
Information
D. C. (CRIME)
4 JUNE 1932
4/6

P. A. (Crime Branch)

C.S.
5/6/32.

D. 3718.

TRANSLATION

The log-book is hereby issued by the Fokien Customs subject to the following regulations governing any junk or boat sailing between Foochow and other ports after it is duly registered and branded.

(1) Subsequent to the issue of the log book, it shall be kept on the junk or boat to which it is issued and is not transferable and no alterations shall be made therein/ The junk or boat loading cargo/sailing between Foochow and other ports, either import or export, the logbook is to be produced for the examination of the Custom Officers.

(2) Licencee shall be liable to punishment for illegally unloading, provided that the particulars of goods and date are specified in the logbook, between one port to another, until it reaches its destination when it is found without being checked by the Customs authorities between the two ports stated therein. The same rules are applicable for export.

(3) Usual fee is to be charged for re-issue when a logbook is lost without sufficient reason.

(4) In case of any change of the boat or Captain (owner of the boat) the log book together with other documents are to be produced to the Customs where it will be dealt with according to usual procedure.

(5) Logbook is issued free of charge nor is there any fee for its renewal.

16/3/18

CERTIFICATE

To "Kyung Voong Zung" (金豐順), Junk

According to instructions from the Commissioner of Fokien Customs, we hereby issue a certificate to the junk herein mentioned that prior to the establishment of a Navigation Bureau, the said junk is permitted

temporarily to use the above name to pay the Custom's duties.

P R T I C U L A R S

Name of Junk ... Kyung Voong Sung 金豐順

Proprietor or Captain ... Yui Chih 余吉

Native of ... Ning Teh Hsien 寧德縣

Residence ... Ning Teh 寧德

Branded No. ..535

Loading Capacity ... 2033 catties

Specification of Junk ... 90 ft long, 18 ft 6 ins broad, 11 ft 4 ins deep.

REMARKS of LICENCE FEE

16-3	$12.198
24-12-31	$13.06
25-1-32	$13.06

REMARKS of CONDUCT

Inaccurate report re wooden buckets. Fined $85.00 by the Commissioner of Tung Chung (東沖) Native Customs Head Office on 13-10-22.

Intentionally avoid of duties on 30205 fishes to the amount of $56.785. Commissioner ordered to fine double the amount $113.00. Dated 24-8-28. Tung Chung Native Customs.

ENTRIES

Loading 734 piculs of beans from Tung Chung to Koun Tou (瑄頭). Duty paid $72.442. 13 receipts. 17-3-18.

From Koun Tou to Ning Teh .. Empty .. no duty. No receipt. 28/3/18

From Koun Tou to Ning Teh .. Empty .. no duty. no receipt. 25-3-18

From Ning Teh to Sah Tao (石島)... Porcelain..Paper.. Duty paid $421.71. One receipt. 17-4-18

From Sah Tao loading beans via Pai-shih (白石) to Foh-an. Duty paid $444.926. One receipt. 24-7-18.

Translation of the attached Boat (or Junk) Licence issued by the Fokien Provincial Water Public Safety Bureau.

BOAT LICENCE.

With a view to the enforcement of maritime regulations governing contrabands and to the prevention of piracy all boats (or junks), large and small, for fishing as well as for commerce, running along the coast of the Fokien Province, are required to apply to the authorities of the district concerned for registration and the issue of a licence, before they can be allowed to pass.

This licence is issued to:-

Kyung Foong Zung (金豐順),	owner of the boat for commerce.
Yue Tai Shing (游泰興),	guarantor.
Crossbeam:	18' 8".
Sailors:	15 persons.
Fee:	$23.40.
Registration No.	2380.
Date:	May 17, 21st year of the Republic (1932).

Regulations.

1. The licensee is not allowed to smuggle contrabands nor to hide pirates.
2. The licensee is required to have the licence renewed at the end of each season in each year.
3. The licensee is required to report to the Customs Authorities of the port which the boat passes for examination and permission to pass.
4. The licensee is required to furnish the measurement of the crossbeam and the number of sailors.
5. The licensee, when wishing to sail to another port, is required to present this licence (to the Authorities concerned) for examination and registration.
6. The licensee is required to pay licence fees at the time of the issue or renewal of the licence.

For offences against any of the above regulations the licensee shall be severely dealt with.

The Fokien Provincial Water Public
Safety Bureau.

Translation of the attached Export Bill issued by the Tung Chung Sub-Customs Station.

Tung Chung Sub-Customs Station.
Bill for Export.

Export Bill issued for the foreign and native goods loaded on the Chinese commercial boat (or junk) registered in the name of Kyung Foong Zung, which sails for Shantung, for presentation to and examination by the Chefoo Customs.

Goods.	Number of articles.
Coarse bowls	5113½ packages
Blubbers	508 pieces
Wooden covers	755
Wooden buckets	300 sets
Soft wood	22 pieces
Sundry wood	32 "
"Water" planks	60 "
Wooden oil	14 boxes
Coarse porcelain	21 baskets
Sea weed	270 pieces

2 receipts for taxes paid.

April 18, 21st year of the Republic (1932).

Translation of the attached bill.

Character Nying 535.

Kyung Foong Zung leaving Shantung.

Coarse (porcelain) bowls	5113½ packages
Wooden covers	755
Soft Wood	22 pieces
"Water" planks	60 "
Coarse porcelain	21 baskets
Blubber	508 pieces
Wooden buckets	300 sets
Sundry wood	32 pieces
Wooden oil	14 boxes
Sea weed	270 pieces
Deposit	Tls.50.00

(Chopped) The seal of the Shantung Customs,
Tung Chung Sub-Station.

April 14, 21st year (1932).

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1932

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. G. REGISTRY
No. D 3718.
Date 6 / 6 / 32.

Pirates' Broadside Rakes Customs Picket Boat Fore And Aft In Deadly Battle

MURDEROUS AND SUDDEN FIRE FOLLOWS ATTEMPTED SEARCH OF MYSTERIOUS JUNK YESTERDAY BY OFFICIALS

FOREIGN OFFICER, FIVE CHINESE, SHOT DOWN BY FIRST PIRATE VOLLEY

Three Dead, Three Wounded, On Customs Boat; One Pirate Killed; Foreigner Dies Outright; Junk Not Yet Captured By Searchers

Rifles and revolvers rattled through the haze on the Yellow Sea yesterday morning as a terrific and murderous broadside from a pirates' junk raked the decks of a Customs picket boat, and cut down nearly all her crew, causing instant death to a foreign officer, two Chinese, and wounds to three other Chinese. With the control of the small boat disorganized, and the officers laying either dead or seriously wounded on the decks, the remaining Customs crew swung around their machine gun and with the first traverse brought down one of the pirates. Other pirates probably died too, but in the smoky haze the pirate junk slipped away and fled for safety. The encounter followed the attempted search of the junk off Woosung by the crew of the picket boat, which was attached to the Customs cruiser Chuentiao. The pirates are still at large. The bodies of the dead men and the wounded were brought back to Shanghai last night. The three Chinese wounded are now in the Lester Hospital two of them being in a serious condition.

On Wednesday afternoon late, the Chuentiao slipped down-river as she had done on many occasions before. The Chuentiao is a Customs Revenue cruiser, and the trim little craft is the pride of all who work aboard her. Probably on Wednesday the crew again looked forward to just one such day as had passed on previous occasions. Little of note would occupy their attention. But in reality death lay in store for a number of them.

The Chuentiao stood off the river and cruised through the muddy waters; Woosung lay away to westward. The boat moved within the 12 mile limit of Chinese territorial waters. Old fashioned Chinese junks moved by sluggishly, [illegible] of them. The Chuentiao slowed down. The officers and crew had much work to do among the junks. Permits had to be demanded and examined. Sometimes these examinations yield excellent results, for the Woosung shore abounds in pirates and is the hatching place for smugglers.

The Search

It was nearing 2.30 yesterday morning when the Chuentiao lowered her smart looking picket boat. The Chinese sailors went aboard and so did J. Kondrup, third officer, a foreigner of Danish extraction. The search commenced. One by one the junks came under the critical eyes of the customs officials. Quite a number of them had already been looked over and papers examined, when a heavy old junk attracted the attention of the crew of the picket boat. The picket boat swung around and made for the junk. Away in the distance lay the Chuentiao, partly obscured by the haze.

Investigations commenced. As the picket boat came alongside the mysterious looking old craft, one of the junk's crew volunteered to come aboard the picket boat [illegible] evidence [illegible] like the look of his papers. They did not exactly fill requirements. A search of the junk was imperative. Probably the search would prove very interesting. The officer [illegible] his intentions and he and his crew prepared to board the junk.

Murderous Attack

Without the slightest warning the pirates opened fire. There was a blaze of fire from the junk and down in a heap went a number of the picket boat's crew. Kondrup was one of the first to fall. He was struck in the pit of the stomach and died almost immediately. Another Chinese Customs officer went down dead, a bullet in the head. One of the sailors on the picket boat also fell dead, shot through the head. Three other Chinese on the picket boat fell wounded.

Recovering from the surprise the remaining crew of the picket boat answered the fire and brought their machine gun into action. They accounted for the pirate who had presented the suspicious papers. He fell dead on the picket boat. Probably some of his confederates went to their doom too, on the junk. She was riddled with the machine gun bullets. But the haze saved her. Assisted by the bad visibility she moved away and before the Chuentiao could come up to the scene of the action, the junk had disappeared. Completely disorganized by the effect of the sudden and dastardly attack, the survivors aboard the picket boat were unable at the moment to initiate the chase after the disappearing junk.

Search Continues

The Chuentiao is still searching for the pirates; there seems little doubt that the native craft is manned by piratical Chinese. The work of bringing in the dead and the wounded was left to the Haihsing, which arrived in Shanghai harbour at 8.15 last night.

The three Chinese who were still living were taken to the Chinese Lester Hospital and by 11 o'clock last night two of them were in the operating theatre. One was suffering from a stomach wound, and another from serious wounds that have placed his life in danger. The third Chinese suffers from a leg wound and late last night he was reported to be sleeping peacefully.

The body of the pirate is now at the Chinese mortuary while the bodies of the foreigners and of the dead Chinese of the picket boat are lying at the International Funeral Parlours. An inquest on the affair will probably be opened to-day.